

THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on September 24, 1996, the world witnessed a giant step toward the reduction of nuclear danger, as President Clinton followed by leaders from 17 other nations signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] at the United Nations. The General Assembly earlier adopted the treaty with an overwhelming majority bringing to reality a vision of American leaders going back to Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India.

By banning all nuclear explosions, the treaty will end the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons and also constrain the development, and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons. It will also help prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries. It is the fruition of a 40-year effort, revived in 1993 when President Clinton made the courageous commitment to work toward a "true zero" yield treaty.

We realize that the signing of the treaty is but the first step toward a long road ahead. Some forty-four nations will have to sign and then ratify before its entry into force within the next 2 years. While this treaty, or for that matter any treaty, cannot be perfect, it is an indispensable step toward further negotiations and inevitable progress toward the establishment of international peace and security in the post-cold war era. The CTBT is a historic milestone toward the prevention of nuclear proliferation and a safer world.

I urge all members to join me on this occasion in congratulating the President upon achieving this significant step and call upon other nations to put aside their differences and sign the treaty expeditiously.

H.R. 2703

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today disillusioned and greatly saddened by acts of cowardice violence that continue to beset our Nation. To the great dismay of many citizens, the growing sophistication and fearlessness of criminals and vigilantes have made it necessary for law enforcement to be granted greater means and authority with which to pursue and capture those who seek to do harm.

And the unfortunate price that law-abiding citizens must pay for these extra security measures is to compromise their civil liberties. Therefore, I rise today as a reluctant supporter of the antiterrorism legislation contained in H.R. 2703.

Certainly, there is an unfortunate pressing need for harsher punitive measures against those who burn churches or assault the citizenry with bombs and other weapons of destruction. And certainly our law enforcement officials must be given new tools to crack down on and fight both foreign and domestic terrorism. As a nation, we must give clear,

strong signals that such acts will simply not be tolerated and if individuals seek to test our will, they must understand that their actions will be met with equally forceful consequences.

Despite such obvious need for this bill, I have great reservations about the affect of this measure on our civil liberties. Increased access to our personal records and wiretap surveillance by law enforcement and the Government allows for great temptations for abuse. There is great potential that this bill will have the unintended affect of victimizing innocent, law-abiding citizens and allowing improper behavior by law enforcement to go unchecked.

Furthermore, this bill unfairly penalizes minorities, particularly African-Americans, due to the new restrictions it places on appeals by death row prisoners. It is well-known that the death row population is disproportionately African-American. And it is this community and this community alone that will bear the brunt of this unnecessarily harsh provision.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day in America when our only recourse to protect the lives of some is by restricting the rights of others.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JONI KONISHI, WINNER IN THE HAWAII CARPENTERS UNION VOTE 1996 ESSAY CONTEST

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joni Konishi of Kapaa, HI, a winner in the Hawaii Carpenters Union "Vote '96—Works for Us" essay contest. Joni, a student at Kapaa High School, was the winner in the 15-to-18 age category. She is the daughter of unit 4 member Keith Konishi.

The Hawaii Carpenters Union contest asked each contestant to write an essay about the importance of voting. As one of the judges in this contest, I was pleased to see the many outstanding entries from Hawaii's students. Joni and all the winners must be commended for their efforts. I am pleased to submit Joni's essay for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VOTE 96—WORKS FOR US

As a territory to the United States, Hawaii had no rights in voting for the leaders of this country. But, on August 21, 1959, Hawaii became the fiftieth state to join the union. From then on the people of Hawaii have had the right to vote for the leaders of their communities and country, unlike the people of Russia. We are fortunate that the government of our country is run democratically. Therefore we should take advantage of this right, and help make a difference in our communities and country. Voting is important to our union family politically, socially, and economically.

It is important politically for the union family to vote because politics are very important in Hawaii. The officials who are in office will be determining the futures of the people of the state not only politically, but socially and economically too. The democrat party consists mainly of people from the middle class. Therefore, they would be supporting the needs and wants of these people. The democrat party believes in welfare, social security, Medicare, creating jobs for the

people, lowering taxes for the middle class, and also a low tariff. The elements of the democrat party are the same as the needs of the union family. Therefore, a vote from a union family for the democrat party would enable the leaders of the state and country to be one-step closer to recognizing their needs.

Not only is voting important politically, but also socially. Voting would be important to the union family socially because of benefits like welfare and social security. Social security enables the elders of the community to collect funds after they are of ages to retire and would not be working. Taking that away from the elders would be making it hard for them to live relaxing and carefree lives if they had to worry about money, even after working hard all of their life. Welfare is a benefit that many people live off of. Some individuals are unable to make enough money to support their families, or are unable to work due to a disability. These people shouldn't be punished for what is not their fault. All these people need is a little help and they'll be able to support their families. Voting for the right person into office would be giving them all of these benefits that will help make their lives easier.

The most important factor in the voting of union members would be economical. Having the right officials would be promoting the economy of Hawaii. The economy of Hawaii has gotten so bad that many of the locals have had to move to the mainland because there are more job opportunities there. The economy could increase by creating more jobs for the people of Hawaii. Construction is the second biggest industry in the state, yet the unemployment rate of Hawaii is going sky-high due to the many jobless carpenters. The union needs to vote in an official who would be willing to create more jobs for them. Creating jobs could also include finding work sites that need to be renovated, like Coco Palms on Kauai. The more jobs created, the less the government would be giving away funds in unemployment. The decreasing economy causes the people in Hawaii not to have money to spend on necessities. With the people not spending money in the community, many businesses close down and the competition in the island gets less. Therefore the prices rise because there is no one else to compare price and items with. The closing down of businesses also creates more unemployment. A union member vote could help the economy if the combined vote can get the right person in office.

Voting is important to our union family because of the political, social, and economic problems that it can help solve in the community, and also within the country. Having a vote in the electing of these leaders can help aid many of the issues that the members of the union want to address. One of the main issues being the unemployment of many members. Therefore, choosing the right leaders into office will make our dreams into reality.

HONORING THE HUNTINGTON BREAST CANCER ACTION COALITION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of the Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition. This coalition has been instrumental in escalating our awareness about the high rate of breast cancer throughout the Huntington community.